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Application No.: 10/564,341

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Docket No.: 480052001000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A safety clip (100) for a medical catheter that comprises a shaft (22) within and a sleeve (20), ~~the clip serving to maintain the respective proximal ends of the rod and the sleeve against a relative axial movement, the clip, the safety clip~~ comprising:

an elongate body (2), having a first end, a second end and an intermediate portion;

~~an attachment member, and attachment means (4) for attaching the safety clip to the catheter, and~~

a sleeve abutment surface at ~~one~~ the first end of the body and a shaft abutment surface at ~~the other~~ the second end of the body spaced from the first end of the body, the body being effective to maintain spaced apart said respective abutment surfaces, and characterized by one of the sleeve abutment surface and shaft abutment surface defining a sliding member configured a slider (4, 6, 8) for stepless adjustment of the distance separating said sleeve abutment surface and said shaft abutment surface.

2. (Currently Amended) The safety clip according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member ~~means (4)~~ defines one of the sleeve abutment surface and the shaft abutment surface.

3. (Currently Amended) The safety clip according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the attachment member ~~means (4)~~ is slidable on the body.

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4. (Currently Amended) The safety clip according to claim 1 ~~or 3~~, wherein the attachment member means (4) is ~~spaced from both ends~~ positioned along the intermediate portion of the elongate body.

5. (Currently Amended) The safety clip according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the slider ~~(4, 6, 8) slides~~ is configured to slide on the body ~~(2)~~ and defines one of the sleeve abutment surface and the shaft abutment surface.

6. (Currently Amended) The safety clip according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the slider ~~(18)~~ comprises a hinged member.

7. (Currently Amended) The safety clip according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the sleeve abutment surface and the shaft abutment surface is defined by a pair of jaws with a jaw opening adapted to accommodate a range of diameters of the shaft or sleeve, ~~respectively~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The safety clip according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, further comprising a releasing means (10) mechanism for releasing the attachment member means (4) from the catheter, without disturbing the spacing between said abutment surfaces.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A safety clip ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims according to claim 1, in which wherein~~ the distance between said abutment surfaces ~~has been~~ can be selected, and fixed against any further adjustment.

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11. (New) A safety clip for a medical catheter, comprising:
an elongate body having a first end and a second end spaced from the first end;
an attachment member coupled to the elongate body; and
a first spacing member coupled to the first end of the elongate body, at least one of the first spacing member and elongate body configured to permit movement of the first spacing member relative to the second end of the elongate body.
12. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the elongate body includes a slot and the first spacing member includes a portion movable within the slot.
13. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the first spacing member includes a bore configured to permit passage of the elongate member.
14. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the attachment member includes a bore configured to permit passage of the elongate member.
15. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the attachment member defines a second spacing member.
16. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, further comprising a second spacing member coupled to the second end of the elongate catheter.
17. (New) The safety clip according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the elongate member and second spacing member is configured to permit movement of the second spacing member relative to the first end of the elongate body.
18. (New) The safety clip according to claim 16, wherein the elongate member includes a first section and a second section connected by the attachment member.

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19. (New) The safety clip according to claim 18, wherein the attachment member comprising a hinge member configured to adjust an angle between the first section and second section.

20. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the elongate body includes a first section and a second section including a bore configured to receive the first section.

21. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the attachment member is positioned at an intermediate portion of the elongate member between the first end and the second end.

22. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the attachment member includes an engagement member.

23. (New) The safety clip according to claim 22, wherein the engagement member includes a plurality of sets of jaws, each of the sets of jaws configured to grip a different diameter member of a medical catheter.

24. (New) The safety clip according to claim 22, wherein the engagement member includes at least one set of jaws comprising thermoplastic material.

25. (New) The safety clip according to claim 22, wherein the engagement member includes a threaded member configured to turn within a threaded bore of the attachment member.

26. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the first spacing member is configured to engage a portion of a medical catheter.

27. (New) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the safety clip is attached to a medical catheter including a shaft and a sleeve together configured for relative movement, the sleeve including a housing and the shaft including a stopping member, wherein the first spacing member abuts the stopping member.

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28. (New) The safety clip according to claim 27, wherein the attachment member abuts the housing and engages the shaft.

29. (New) The safety clip according to claim 27, further comprising a second spacing member, the attachment member engaging the shaft at a location between the first spacing member and second spacing member.

30. (New) The safety clip according to claim 29, wherein the second spacing member is fixed to the elongate member and abuts the housing.

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